

Message Text

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E.O. 11652

TAGS: OVIP, TSPA, XG

SUBJ: VISIT OF ESRO ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL ROY GIBSON

1. ESRO ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL ROY GIBSON MET WITH MR. HERMAN POLLACK, SCI AND MR. ARNOLD FRUTKIN, NASA/I IN SEPARATE MEETINGS ON JULY 17, AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION AND MCDONNELL DOUGLAS CORPORATION ON JULY 18. SUBJECT FOR ALL MEETINGS WAS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN REPEAT EUROPEAN

LAUNCHING SITE AT KOUROU (FRENCH GUIANA) USING US LAUNCHERS AND LAUNCH SERVICES.

2. IN MEETING WITH POLLACK, QUESTIONS WERE AIMED AT US LAUNCH ASSISTANCE POLICY OF OCTOBER 9, 1972, SUCH AS:

A. COULD THE US PROVIDE LAUNCHERS AND LAUNCH SERVICES FOR A EUROPEAN LAUNCH SITE AT KOUROU?

ANSWER GIVEN WAS IN AFFIRMATIVE PROVIDED THE CONDITIONS OF THE OCTOBER 9, 1972 POLICY WERE MET; NAMELY, THAT THE SATELLITE PROJECTS WOULD BE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS UNDER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS, SUBJECT TO THE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS ON SATELLITES INTENDED TO PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES AND ON OTHER OPERATIONAL APPLICATIONS SATELLITES.

B. WHAT WOULD THE USG'S ATTITUDE BE TOWARD LAUNCHINGS FROM KOUROU OF NON-EUROPEAN MISSIONS, INCLUDING US MISSIONS? ANSWER WAS THAT OCTOBER 9, 1972 LAUNCH ASSISTANCE POLICY ALLOWS FOR THIRD PARTY LAUNCHES UNDER SAME CONDITIONS OF (A) ABOVE IF PRIOR USG AGREEMENT IS OBTAINED. THE PROBABILITY OF USG MISSIONS BEING LAUNCHED FROM KOUROU IS VERY LOW. NON-USG USERS WOULD NEITHER BE ENCOURAGED OR DISCOURAGED FROM USING KOUROU.

C. CAN USG AUTHORIZE THE SUPPLY OF US GROUND EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED AT KOUROU. ANSWER WAS THAT USG CAN AUTHORIZE FOR SALE AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH ANYUS LAUNCHER CHOSEN FOR KOUROU. THE POSSIBILITY OF SURPLUS GROUND EQUIPMENT BEING TRANSFERRED WOULD DEPEND ON ITS AVAILABILITY.

D. WILL USG ATTITUDE BE GOVERNED OR INFLUENCED BY TYPE OF LAUNCHER CHOSEN? ANSWER WAS NO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS OCTOBER 9, 1972 POLICY PERMITS APPROPRIATE LAUNCHERS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

E. WILL US HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO AUSTRIA JOINING THE SPACELAB PROGRAM? ANSWER WAS THAT ADHERENCE PROCEDURE OF ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENTS IS COVERED IN ARTICLE 15 OF SPACELAB AGREEMENT AND THAT WE TENTATIVELY

FORSEE NO OBJECTIONS TO AUSTRIAN ADHERENCE.

3. IN NASA MEETING WITH FRUTKIN QUESTIONS CENTERED ON NASA'S INTEREST AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A KOUROU FACILITY.

A. QUESTION: WOULD NASA BE INTERESTED IN USING AN EUROPEAN BASE AT KOUROU AND IF SO FOR WHAT MISSIONS? NASA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT ITS CURRENT NEEDS ARE BEING MET BY EXISTING US LAUNCH FACILITIES AND IT FORSEES LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT A KOUROU LAUNCHING WOULD BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, IF A THOR DELTA OR ATLAS CENTAUR CAPABILITY WERE ESTABLISHED AT KOUROU IT WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING FOR PRE-SHUTTLE MISSIONS.

B. COULD NASA PARTICIPATE IN THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF

A EUROPEAN BASE AT KOUROU? NASA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT THEY WOULD NOT EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD WISHTO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON IF A NASA INVENTORY VEHICLE SUCH AS THOR DELTA OR ATLAS CENTAUR WERE CHOSEN TO INSURE COMPATABILITY AND MINIMIZE ANY INTERFERENCE WITH US PROGRAMS.

4. IN MEETINGS WITH US AEROSPACE CONTRACTORS GIBSON EXPLORED FEASIBILITY OF A US LAUNCHER BEING USED FROM EUROPEAN BASE AT KOUROU AND RECEIVED GROSS ESTIMATES OF FACILITY, LAUNCH COSTS AND TIMETABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND OPERATION.

5. IN SUMMARY, GIBSON'S TRIP WAS FACT-FINDING MISSION TO (1) DETERMINE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN LAUNCH FACILITY AT KOUROU USING US LAUNCHERS (2) DATA ON WHICH TO BASE RECOMMENDATION TO ESRO COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 26 REGARDING ESRO/ESA SUPPORT FOR KOUROU.

6. ABOVE INFORMATION IS FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION. DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE ALL POSTS IF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA MATERIALIZE. INGERSOLL

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